News-Pages of the GSWC

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. 5 April 2022
To Accompany *Family History Capers* Vol. 45 #3

GSWC Meetings are usually held at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month, September to May (unless a holiday interferes). Currently we are meeting via Zoom for the health and safety of our members. We are asking everyone to register ahead of time to assist with tracking attendance.
If you are not a member, please send an email no less than three days before the event to info@washtenawgenealogy.org to request an invitation to register. Look at **our website:** https://www.washtenawgenealogy.org **or our Facebook page**:
https://www.facebook.com/genealogywashtenaw.

Upcoming Meetings:

Sunday, April 24, 2022: "Scandalous Ancestors: Tracking Colorful Family Members" presented by Jessica Trotter.
Class: "Sources: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly" taught by Cynthia Grostick.

Sunday, May 22, 2022: "The Polar Bear Soldiers of WWI" presented by Mike Grobbel.
Class: "Topical Breakout Rooms", topics TBD.

Report on Recent Meetings:

February 27, 2022 "African American History in Washtenaw County" presented by Omer Jean Winborn. Washtenaw County was a major player in the Underground Railroad. The railroad was not a train but a safe method for escaped slaves to use to reach freedom. Many were helped by Quaker communities and African American churches.

Ms. Winborn highlighted some of the laws that were passed in the United States before the Civil War including the Northwest Ordinance in 1785 and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

Ms. Winborn mentioned several individuals who played a part in the freedom movement before the Civil War. She pointed out how faith and the church played an important role. She described how pastors and churches were a part of the Underground Railroad in Washtenaw County. Some of these churches still exist today.

Reported by Janet Gilkey

Class: "FamilySearch Part 2". Mike Gerding briefly reviewed the elements of the FamilySearch website he covered last month, especially the Family Tree, and Search functions.

He began with the Research Wiki, found under the "Search" tab. Use the Wiki to find places and topics (not people). Note the helpful hints that are found in the "Research Strategies" section and "Germany Research Tools", especially the word lists and reading German script.

He then moved on to the "Memories" tab. Especially interesting may be exploring "Discover the Memories".

The next tab is "Indexing". There is an overview, and a place to try out indexing. If all is OK you can graduate to real time, to select a project, and work on it. Note that the 1950 Census will be released in April of 2022, but without indexing. You can help to make this index!

The "Activities" tab is filled with ideas about fun ways to approach genealogy.

The "question mark" at the right provides ways to get help. You can use "Contact Us" or "Look up Service". See the handout for details.

Mike's handout provides specific URLs for many of these features, as well as the FamilySearch FaceBook page. The handout is under "Public Downloads" on the washtenawgenealogy.org home page. Click on "Class Handouts".

March 27, 2022: **"40+ Sources for Finding Maiden Names"** presented by Katherine Willson. Ms. Willson shared her goals for her speech: why so many records did not include women's maiden names, how to research for maiden names, and what records may provide a person's maiden name

Prior to the 20th Century, there were fewer records that would have a woman's maiden name. Check the children's records to see if they reveal the mother's maiden name.

Ms. Willson then showed what documents are generated at the civic, sacred, and social levels.

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Examples: civic records could be found in newspapers and probate records; sacred records might be family baptisms and funerals; and social records through city directories and naturalizations forms.

She mentioned several additional resources: family bibles, social security applications, DNA, and PERSI (Periodical Source Index) or JSTOR.

Ms. Willson can be contacted at: socialmediagenealogy.com

Reported by Janet Gilkey

Class: "Irish Pioneers of Washtenaw County" by Abigail Eynon. Abigail R. Eynon, a member of the GSWC, shared information on her ancestors in Washtenaw County. She began by noting some of the reasons people left Ireland. The Great Emigration followed the Great Famine with many Irish coming to the United States. The French Catholics came earlier to Michigan. Territorial Land Sales offered 80 acres for $100. In 1828 Michael Stubbs came to Northfield, with other families. It became known as "The New Ireland". Some of the immigrants came via Canada or eastern states such as Rhode Island. Windows at St. Patrick's Church were dedicated to Irish families among them being Duffy, Kearney, Mead, and O'Hara. Abigail's handout (found in the Public Downloads-Class) contains more detail and several suggested sources.

Reported by Marcia McCrary

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GSWC Items:

Notes from the Board:

The next **GSWC Board Meeting** is Tuesday, May 10, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m., via Zoom. For more information on the agenda and how to attend, send an email to Nancy Howard: president@washtenawgenealogy.org.

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The **German Special Interest Group** will meet on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 2 p.m. via Zoom. For more information contact Mike Gerding GermanSIG@comcast.net.

The **DNA Special Interest Group** will meet next on Saturday, April 16, 2022, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Rodger Wolf, rawolf@umich.edu for more information.

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The **Annual Meeting** of the **GSWC** will be held on Sunday, May 22, 2022 on Zoom. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting.

Slate of officers to be elected for 2022–2024:

President: Nancy Howard
First Vice-President: Janet Tarolli
Corresponding Secretary: Rob Steward
At-Large Board Members (2 year term):
Rebecca Carver
Cheryl Garnett
Mike Gerding
At-Large Board Member (1 year term):
Cyndy Steward (to restore the balance of At-Large members being elected)
Nominating Committee 2022–2023 year:
Linda Williams
Tim Salatin
Marcia McCrary

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The joint **LDS/GSWC Library** is **NOW OPEN** on Mondays from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. at 525 E. Woodland Drive, Saline, MI 48176.

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Janet Tarolli shared with us notice of two free livestream presentations on Zoom by retired nurse-midwife Brigid Mulloy.

- "A Hospital in Our House: The Pemberton Women & Peterson Hospital"
- "The Abolitionist Quaker Ancestors of the Pemberton Women: Their Part in Michigan's History"

Please see the flyer at: https://washtenawgenealogy.org/fileDownload.php?cid=17&sid=1 and use the link on the flyer to register. Both have some genealogical aspects. We encourage you to share this flyer with others who may be interested.

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